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10-6151

29 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to DCI (Mr. John Clarke)

SUBJECT: Comments on Speech of Eugene Lyons

1. We agree that Eugene Lyons' speech is a fine piece of anti-Soviet propaganda and serves a useful purpose. We do, however, have some substantive reservations. We feel that Mr. Lyons perhaps underestimates the basic loyalty of the peoples of the USSR, especially the Great Russians, toward their central government. The roots of this loyalty, in spite of the hardships suffered by the people, lie primarily in a gradual merging of Russian patriotism with Communist ideology. This is intensified by the incontestable fact that conditions have improved since the death of Stalin. SRS has consistently held that the intellectual ferment resulting from the release of Stalinist terror was directed against certain methods of the regime rather than against the system as such.

2. So far as we are aware there is no evidence of such wholesale purges at Russian universities as Mr. Lyons assumes; his figures would appear entirely too high. We do agree with him on the dubious value of the ordinary "tourist testimony," although we have read a number of [redacted] by responsible observers that seemed to us to be well balanced and informative.

3. Taking all reporting into consideration, we believe it is clear that substantial changes have occurred since pre-war days. We think that it would be a serious mistake to underestimate the extent to which the Soviet peoples, with all their grievances, have become accustomed to their government, view its accomplishments with pride, and are hopeful of better days ahead.

4. In conclusion, we may refer to NIE 10-58, "Anti-Communist Resistance Potential in the Sino-Soviet Bloc," where the question of dissidence is dealt with in detail. This coordinated document (especially the annex on the USSR, prepared under SRS chairmanship) shows a picture differing considerably from that sketched by Mr. Lyons.

25X1

cc - DD/I 2/3/81 [redacted]

- Col. Grogan

25X1

Chief, SRS/DDI

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI

This is a most excellent speech, I think,
by Eugene Lyons of READER'S DIGEST before
the Advertising Club in Springfield, Mass.

25X1
[Redacted]
STANLEY J. GROGAN
Assistant to the Director

10 July 1958
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
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(47)

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Remarks:

The Director thought this was an excellent speech. He agreed with it, and asked that it be "shown to the boys" and if they agreed, a letter should be prepared for his signature to Eugene Lyons with appropriate comments.

2/ For preparation of comments if appropriate.

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John M. Clarke - Asst. to Director 7/14/58

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